

Application No. 10/719,795  
Reply to Office Action of August 30, 2006

Docket No.: HO-P02901US1

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A drilling fluid comprising untreated crumb rubber particles, the crumb rubber having a diameter of from greater than 400 to about 4000 microns wherein the crumb rubber is added in an amount of from 5 to 100 pounds per barrel of fluid and a hydrocarbon fluid.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) The drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein said crumb rubber has a density of from about 8.5 to about 10.5 ppg.
4. (Previously presented) The drilling fluid of claim 2 wherein said hydrocarbon fluid is selected from the group consisting of crude oil, diesel oil, mineral oil, gasoline, naptha, toluene, ethylenedichloride, synthetic oils and mixtures thereof.
5. (Previously presented) The drilling fluid of claim 1 further comprising cellulose fiber.
6. (Previously presented) The drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein the crumb rubber particles are capable of expanding to 140% of their original size upon exposure to hydrocarbon fluids.
7. (Currently amended) A drilling fluid comprising:
  - (a) Untreated crumb rubber particles capable of expanding upon exposure to heat, said particles having a diameter of from 400 to 4000 microns; and

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- (b) a hydrocarbon fluid wherein the crumb rubber particles are added to the drilling fluid in an amount of from 5 to 100 pounds per barrel of fluid.
8. (Previously presented) The drilling fluid of claim 7 wherein said crumb rubber particles have a density of from about 8.5 to about 10.5 ppg.
9. (Previously presented) The drilling fluid of claim 7 wherein said crumb rubber particles are capable of expanding to 140% of their original size upon exposure to a hydrocarbon fluid.
10. (Currently amended) A method of reducing lost circulation in a well comprising:
- (a) preparing a pill of untreated crumb rubber particles and hydrocarbon fluid wherein said crumb rubber comprises 5 to 100 pounds per barrel of drilling fluid;
- (b) injecting said pill into said well; and
- (c) forcing said pill into a lost circulation zone wherein said rubber particles have a diameter of greater than 400 to about 4000 microns.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the crumb rubber has particles varying in size from greater than 400 to 2000 microns.
12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said hydrocarbon fluid is selected from the group consisting of crude oil, diesel oil, kerosene, mineral oil, gasoline, naptha, toluene, ethylenedichloride and mixtures thereof.

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13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said hydrocarbon fluid comprises diesel oil.